## Review: 'Gremlins' plot misses its mark

In "Gremlins," Billy Peltzer, played by Zach Galligan, opens a most unusual birthday present as his parents, played by Frances Lee McCain and Hoyt Axton, look on.

## The Boss is back with so-so album

By KARL PALLMEYER

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"Born in the U.S.A." Bruce Springsteen and the E Street

The "Boss" is back with a good, but not great, album.

It's been two years since Springsteen's solo album, "Nebraska," and four years since his last album with the E Street Band, "The River," so the music world has been looking forward to his new album. "Born in the U.S.A." is a disappoint-

ment, but only a minor one. If "Born in the U.S.A." had been released by any other artist it would have been brilliant, but Springsteen is not any other artist. The album has several good songs, but it doesn't

stand up as a whole. The most obvious problem with the album is its cover: a too-large picture of Springsteen's blue jeanclad rear. The Rolling Stones had a

view with a working zipper) and it seemed to suit the band's "bad boy" image. When Loverboy had a picture of a leather-clad rear on their "Get Lucky" album it seemed a cheap attempt to gain the attention of pre-pubescent girls. Springsteen's image is not suited to this type of art-

sizer than in his earlier work and, unlike most bands today, he uses the ical. synthesizer to compliment, rather

haunting.

"No Surrender," a hard-rocking song in typical Springsteen style about the loss of youthful idealism not great, album. Some songs are

By SHAWN BEHLEN Staff Reviewer

"Gremlins" is simply an exercise in schizophrenia. This film bounces from riotous humor to morbid vio-lence and back with nary an eyebrow raised.

The questions I have for the makers of this film are: What gives? Is this a satire on the good and evil sides of mankind or is it a spoof of nostalgic goody-goody films circa 1940? Is it a lesson on the intrinsic values of west-ern culture or is it just the black humor of a satanic comedy writer on speed? Or, (and here's the big one) am I just a fool who should take the movie as it comes and ignore all the artsy-fartsy messages on life that it

I'm really not sure about the answers to any of those questions but I suspect the answer to the last question is

a resounding yes.
"Gremlins" was directed by Joe Dante ("The Howling") and produced by Steven Spielberg. That right there gives some clues to the nature of this film. Put Mr. Horror with Mr. Adventure-and-a-kid and you're bound to have some conflicts. Advance word on this film was that Spielberg wanted the little monsters to be cute and nice and Dante wanted them to be ugly and nasty. It was reported that they compromised. The film, however, looks like they simply took turns in shooting the material and then edited it all together.

Example number one: a movie marquee in the film advertises "A Boy's Life" and "Look at the Stars" These were Spielberg's working titles for "E.T." and "Close Encounters." Cute, huh?

Example number two: in one scene, "It's a Wonderful Life" with Jimmy Stewart is on the television. The first shot of the wintry town "Gremlins" is set in is a duplicate of the many shots of Stewart's town in "Wonderful Life." I can only assume that parallels should then be drawn.

Example number three: Polly Holliday (Flo on "Alice") portrays a mean, bitter and elderly widow who threatens the young hero and his dog in a way so reminiscent of the Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz" that it really is hard to ignore. Does this mean all of this can be considered a bad dream in which the hero and heroine learn lessons about man-

Example number four: well, you probably get the idea — I could go on for quite a while.

In case you're wondering by now, "Gremlins" is about citizens of a small town who are terrorized by theugly little creatures because the hero doesn't follow

Overall, the film is not a total loss. I do have to recommend it for the moments of inspired lunacy, if for nothing else. In no other film I know of can you see ugly little villains murder a family and then go into a bar, flash a waitress and breakdance.

I do wish, however, that Dante and Speilberg had decided exactly what they wanted - whether it be black comedy, social satire or horror film and stuck with it. "Gremlins" tries to walk too fine a line and just

## Short takes: Sting to be villain again

**United Press International** 

Sting and Beals star together HOLLYWOOD — Jennifer Beals, the Yale student who exploded to stardom in "Flashdance" last year, Sartain and George "Goober" Lindhas been signed for the title role in Columbia Pictures' "The Bride," a "Goober and Gailard Go to Town." new version of the classic Mary Shelstardom in "Flashdance" last year,

The 20-year-old newcomer will with Don Harron and guest stars co-star with Sting, lead singer of the rock group "Police," who will play Axton, Loretta Lynn, Irlene Man-Baron von Frankenstein. Geraldine drell and Marie Osmond. Page heads the list of supporting

players.
"The Bride" will be directed by Franc Roddam on locations in Europe. Miss Beals currently is filming "Cinderella" with Matthew Brode-rick for Shelly Duvall's "Fairie Tale Theater" for cable TV

'Hee Haw' renewed for 16th year HOLLYWOOD — "Hee Haw," the hayseed series, has been renewed for a 16th season in syndicated TV with a contract for 26 allnew episodes starring Buck Owens

The Nashville-based country mu- to air alone or grouped as a comsic and comedy show, which is tele- plete series.

vised from Opryland Studios, will add new features for the coming season, including Marianne Gordon (Mrs. Kenny Rogers) and Gailard

and Grandpa Jones will return along

'Dr. Doolittle' series to air HOLLYWOOD - Twentieth Century-Fox, which produced "Dr. Dolittle" starring Rex Harrison in 1967, has developed an animated

TV series based on the classic Hugh Lotfing stories. The studio announced it has completed 13 of a planned 52 episodes of "The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle" for undication.

syndication. Robert B. Morin, a studio vice oresident, said, "This is whimsical family entertainment with the advantage of each episode being able

## Movies under the night sky

By LESLIE HEFFNER

Many Aggies enjoy watching movies under the stars at the Grove—a summer pastime made possible by the work of a handful of fellow students.

These fellow students are employees of The Grove, and most of them are members of Aggie Cinema.

"I make sure things go along the right lines, but the students make all decisions and handle the finances," says Paul Striffolino, sponsor of The Grove and Aggie Cinema.

The Grove student workers are usually hired from the Aggie Cinema committee, because they have the know-how and experience in movie operations, Striffolino said. The students do everything from maintaining The Grove to running the projection

Working at The Grove takes a lot of time, but the experience, practical skills and interpersonal skills which are learned through the job are invaluable, said Susan Slowey, public relations and concessions student worker.

The Grove pays its own way. Like the Aggie Cinema it receives no student service fees. Its only income is from admission fees The Grove manager and assistant manager select the movies.

"We sit down and take a look at what movies have been shown on the campus and what the response was, then we go from the-re," said Mark Garner, manager of The Grove and chairman of

This summer's film series opened June 4 with "Gone With the Wind." Last Sunday almost 200 people showed up to see

When the summer is over Aggie Cinema takes up where The Grove leaves off. The last movie of The Grove season will be "A Boy and His Dog" on Aug 16.

Aggie Cinema shows its movies Rudder Theater. "The Big Chill," "Moscow on the Hudson," "Splash" and "Footloose" are a few of the movies scheduled for



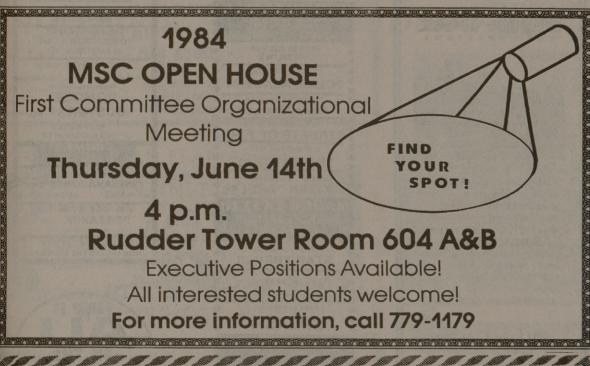
As for the music, there are some very good songs on this album. "Downbound Train," "I'm On Fire," "No Surrender," "My Hometown" ole boy" song that sounds much like and the title track are really very good.

Springsteen is using more synthe
Eddie Cochran's "Summertime Blues." "Bobby Jean," "I'm Goin' Down," "Glory Days" and "Dancing in the Dark" are also good but typ-

The only bad song on the album is "Cover Me." The lyrics are very perthan dominate, the song.

Roy Bittan's keyboard work on sonal and show the insecurity of a "Downbound Train," "I'm On Fire" man who has to pretend to be a and "My Hometown" is extremely "tough guy," but the music is too "tough guy," but the music is too harsh and up-beat and leaves the

among a group of musicians, is good, but others are too typically probably the album's best track. Unfortunately several of the songs U.S.A." is good solid rock and a welsimilar picture on their "Sticky Fin-gers" album (except it was a frontal older material. "Darlington County" tric pop on the radio today.



begin at 8:45. Gate opens 8:00

Harrison Ford

BLADE

All Movies

Grove

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Non-stu \$1.50 Child (7-12)

animated

MRADING LINA (B) DC Some very funny business.

Friday & Saturday June 15 & 16

DAN AYKROYD EDDIE MURPHY

They're not just getting rich...

They're getting even.

Ralph Bakshi's futuristic film

Sunday June 17

Orson Welles

Thursday

June 14

CITIZEN KANE Mondau

June 18

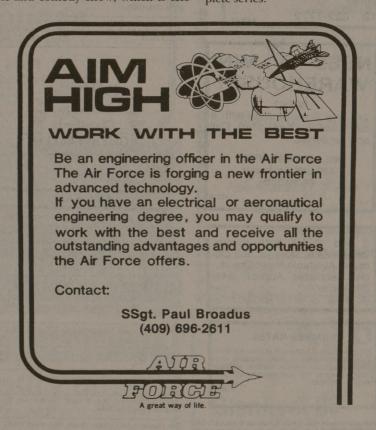
TRUE GRIT Starring

John Wayne

Tuesday

June 19

with Goldie Hawn Wednesday June 20



The Grove

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Due to the release of Indiana Jones & the Temple of Doom, Raiders of the Lost Ark has been pulled from theatrical release.

In place of Raiders on Friday-/Saturday, June 15/16, We will be showing:





An Apple for the Teacher..

**Battalion** Advertising

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